

02 February 2024



Urban Planning Delegated Committee

Boroondara Council

6 Parliament Place  
East Melbourne  
VIC 3002

Email: [conservation@nattrust.com.au](mailto:conservation@nattrust.com.au)  
Web: [www.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au)

Via email: [Emil.Dickson@boroondara.vic.gov.au](mailto:Emil.Dickson@boroondara.vic.gov.au)

T 03 9656 9879

**Re: Disrepair and unlawful demolition of 7 Mangarra Road, Canterbury**

Dear Urban Planning Delegated Committee members,

I write on behalf of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) to encourage the committee to endorse the request to the Minister for Planning to amend the Boroondara Planning Scheme to apply the Specific Control Overlay (SCO) to the land at 7 Mangarra Road, Canterbury in response to the circumstances that lead to the destruction of the dwelling.

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (National Trust) is the state's largest community-based heritage advocacy organisation actively working towards conserving and protecting our heritage for future generations to enjoy, representing 40,000 members and supporters across Victoria.

As Victoria's premier heritage and conservation organisation, the National Trust has an interest in ensuring that the wide range of natural, cultural, social, and Indigenous heritage values of the municipality are protected and respected, contributing to strong, vibrant and prosperous communities.

We were deeply disappointed to hear of the arson and subsequent destruction of the locally significant heritage property 'Shenley Croft', 7 Mangarra Road, Canterbury. The National Trust agrees with the officer's report on the matter,

*The unlawful demolition of 'Shenley Croft' raises concern about the Heritage Overlay and its ability to protect places of heritage significance. There is a need to prevent or mitigate neglect and unlawful demolition, and potential development gains that could arise from such action.*

The National Trust has been campaigning against "demolition by neglect" for many years. We have previously prepared a report on the issue of [Demolition by Neglect](#), and this is also an issue being considered by the Heritage Council of Victoria as part of the [State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage](#).

It is vital for the Heritage Overlay to stand as a control that cannot be circumvented via deliberate disrepair and/or unlawful demolition. We as a community rely on heritage protections to tell our story. Through protecting places and their diverse values, we are the better for understanding the important histories of our local areas, which is just as important

as our state and national heritage sites. We believe allowing benefit through subsequent development of the site in the case of 'Shenley Croft' would be an inadequate result for the intended protection of the Heritage Overlay.

We therefore fully support the officer's recommendations that the *Planning & Environment Bill 2021* be applied to its full power to enforce the protection of heritage buildings under section 6B. We encourage Council's Urban Planning Delegated Committee to endorse these recommendations completely.

The Trust would be pleased to offer any assistance we can provide in the progression of this issue. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with Councillors and/or Council officers to discuss this issue further and how we may be of assistance.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with our team at [madeleine.moore@nattrust.com.au](mailto:madeleine.moore@nattrust.com.au) or on 03 9656 9879 to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Westbrooke', written in a cursive style.

Samantha Westbrooke  
Executive Manager—Conservation & Advocacy  
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Cc: Marie Sheriff, Principal Heritage Planner